

USSN 09/941,827

Response

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 18, 27, 33-35, 41, 83-87, 89-94, 114, and 148-149 have been amended.

Claim 1 was amended to fix a typographical error.

Claims 2, 7, 18, 27, 33-35, 41, 83-87, 89-94, 114, and 148-149 have been amended to delete a period.

Claim 6 has been amended to address an objection to this claim in the June 4, 2003 Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim 93 has been amended to correct a typographical error, i.e., the double recitation of "oxide" in line 3.

Claims 150-157 have been added and all depend directly or indirectly from Claim 2.

Claims 1-62 and 78-157 are pending.

Restriction/Species Requirement

At page 2, the Examiner requires an election of species. Applicant elects the claims of Species Group I, drawn to a method of forming a dielectric layer. Claims 1-47, 78-94, and 111-149 are readable on the elected species.

Claim 2 is generic to Claim 95, which is in Group II.

Applicant notes that the election of species is solely to facilitate an examination search, and that Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species upon allowance of a generic claim. It is understood that if the claims of the elected species are found allowable over the prior art, the Examiner will expand the search to include other species.

Extension of Term. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time. If any extension and/or fee are required, please charge Account No. 23-2053.

MAD/112351.1

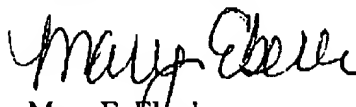
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Response

Based on the above remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims. It is submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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